

News from U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC)

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US House of Representatives – Washington, DC

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Spratt Secures \$650,000 for Health Care in Fairfield County

WASHINGTON – U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC) announced today that he has secured \$650,000 in federal funds for health care in Fairfield County -- \$400,000 in for the Ridgeway Community Health Care Facility and \$250,000 for Fairfield Memorial Hospital. Spratt included the money in the omnibus spending bill that Congress passed on November 20.

The Ridgeway center is run by the Eau Claire Cooperative Health Center, a private, non-profit, federally qualified community health center.

“Ridgeway is a medically underserved area,” Spratt said. “Fairfield County has rates of infant mortality, asthma, diabetes, heart disease, prostate cancer, and hypertension that all markedly exceed the average rates for South Carolina.”

In addition to providing the only local healthcare facility, the clinic has created at least nine new health service jobs. The center is an important addition to the infrastructure of Ridgeway, which has a 13% unemployment rate.

The recently opened center was built on land donated by the Lebanon Presbyterian Church and houses family practice providers, a pharmacy, a part-time dental service, and part-time family counseling. All services are provided on a sliding fee scale based upon the patient's income.

Spratt said the \$250,000 for Fairfield Memorial Hospital will go toward the construction of a proposed Rehabilitation Services/Cardiac Rehabilitation facility. The structure would be a 3500 sq/ft freestanding, steel-frame-on-slab, pre-engineered building. It will house the entire rehabilitation department. A loading and unloading portico and adjacent parking lot will also have to be built to accommodate the transportation needs of patients seeking therapy.

“I am pleased that this money is going to Winnsboro,” Spratt said. “Fairfield Memorial Hospital is a cornerstone of that community.”

The hospital is a 50-bed, county-owned general hospital. Currently, rehabilitation services for the hospital are located in cramped quarters in two different parts of the

building. The physical, occupational, lymphadema, and speech therapy departments are housed in a 40-year old facility in one-third the space they need. The cardiac therapy unit is temporarily located in space that is set to be overtaken by the hospital's cardiology clinic.

"This money will go a long way for Fairfield County," Spratt said. "Its citizens will benefit from the Ridgeway clinic and the new rehabilitation facility at the hospital in Winnsboro."

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